

0108-354 US-1
Amendment dated 10/29/2008

10/798,845

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Reply to office action mailed 5/29/8

REMARKS

Claim 2 is canceled and portions of the substance of this claim have been incorporated into claim 1. Claims 1 and 3-15 have been amended. A number of the amendments are made to provide for antecedent basis and to present the claims in a format more suited for US practice. The applicant retains the right to pursue the canceled or unamended claims, or other claims supported by the specification in one or more continuing applications. The application now includes claims 1 and 3-15.

Claims 1-5, 7 and 11 were rejected as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,184,797 to Stark. Claims 12-15 were rejected as being obvious over Stark. Both of these rejections are traversed.

Claim 1 is focused on a device for walking. Stark is not. Rather, Stark describes a cast which enables isometric exercises to be performed by a user in a seated position. Stark does not show a locking device which locks two parts in an extended position for walking, and does not have a signaling arrangement which emits a signal for alerting a user of the orthopedic aid to a locking state or upon unlocking of the locking device. In view of the above, the rejection should now be withdrawn.

Claims 6, 8, and 9 have been rejected as being obvious over a combination of Stark and U.S. Patent 7,235,058 to Doty. This rejection is traversed.

As noted above, Stark does not describe an orthopedic aid used for walking and lacks several features of the claimed invention. Doty, like Stark, wholly lacks a signaling arrangement which emits a signal for alerting a user of the orthopedic aid to a locking state or upon unlocking of the locking device. Thus, for at least the reason that neither reference shows or describes features of the claimed invention, the rejection should now be withdrawn.

Claim 10 was rejected as being obvious over Stark in view of U.S. Patent Publication 2002/0183673 to Naft. This rejection is traversed.

As noted above, Stark does not describe an orthopedic aid used for walking and lacks several features of the claimed invention. Naft, like Stark (and Doty), wholly

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lacks a signaling arrangement which emits a signal for alerting a user of the orthopedic aid to a locking state or upon unlocking of the locking device. Thus, for at least the reason that neither reference shows or describes features of the claimed invention, the rejection should now be withdrawn.

Reconsideration and allowance of claims 1 and 3-15 at an early date is requested.

Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at 703-787-9400 (fax: 703-787-7557; email: mike@wcc-ip.com) to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic or personal interview.

If a further extension of time is required for this response to be considered as being timely filed, a conditional petition is hereby made for such extension of time. Please charge any deficiencies in fees and credit any overpayment of fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-2041.

Respectfully submitted,



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